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codes are used to focus the search such that the search finds only those reference signatures which are potential matches to the broadcast signatures. The hash codes are computed from one or more characteristics, such as luminance, of the broadcast signatures so that only those reference signatures producing similar hash codes within some range are compared to the broadcast signatures. --.

Please replace the paragraph on lines 6-10 of Page 12 with the following paragraph:

a²

-- Figure 1 illustrates, ~~in accordance with the present invention,~~ an exemplary metering system ~~which may~~ having both monitoring equipment located at a monitoring site and a central facility located remotely from the monitoring site;--.

Please replace the paragraph on lines 1-14 of Page 15 with the following paragraph:

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-- Periodically, the data stored in the log 22 ~~are~~ is transmitted by communication equipment 26 from the monitoring site 12 to a remotely located central facility 28 over a communication medium 30. The communication equipment 26 may be arranged to periodically transmit the data stored in the log 22 to the central facility 28. Alternatively, the communication equipment 26 may be arranged to transmit the data stored in the log 22 when the log 22 has a predetermined amount of data stored therein.